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3				

Remarks:

UNITED STATES Application Ser. No. 09/934,659
Art Unit 2177
METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ATOMIC FILE LOOK-UP

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Serial No. 09/934,659
Examiner Ali

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TO: Examiner Mohammed Ali
Group Art Unit: 2177
Direct Fax: 703-746-5652
RE: Interview Regarding Serial No. 09/934,659

Examiner Ali:

Thank you for discussing the possibility of an interview regarding this application. The proposed agenda would be simply be a discussion of the difference between "atomic file operations" as disclosed in the Ledain and Tzelnic patents, and an "atomic file look-up operation" as disclosed in the present application. Namely, an atomic file operation as used in the file system and storage art, and in Ledain and Tzelnic is a read or write operation that can be accomplished by operating on a single block in the filing system without multiple seek operations for multiple blocks that contain parts of the file. By contrast, an atomic file look-up operation, based on the use of the word "atomic" as meant in the processor art and in our disclosure, is a look-up of a file path or name without suspending task execution in the processor.

The following proposed claims are *** FOR DISCUSSION ONLY ***, however illustrate how this difference might be incorporated into the present claims in order to make the invention as claimed patentably distinct from any combination of Ledain and Tzelnic. Of course an actual amendment would include commensurate amendments to other independent claims and any needed amendments to dependent claims to bring them into agreement with respect to terminology and form. As discussed, I will call in approximately one week to discuss this application or schedule a specific interview time. I am very grateful for your kindness in being willing to discuss the application in a telephonic interview.

1 (currently amended). A method of handling a request from an application to an operating system to perform a file operation relative to a specific file, the method comprising the steps of:

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receiving the request to perform the file operation, wherein the request to perform the file operation causes a file look-up operation;

attempting to perform the file look-up operation without suspending task execution ~~atomically~~ by retrieving a file path corresponding to the specific file from a file system namespace cache; and

notifying the application that the file operation could not be performed without suspending task execution ~~atomically~~ if the file look-up operation could not be performed without suspending task execution ~~atomically~~ because the file path is not stored in the file system namespace cache.

5 (currently amended). A method of handling a request to an operating system to perform a file operation, the request being sent from an application to the operating system, wherein the operating system can notify the application if the file operation cannot be performed ~~atomically~~ without suspending task execution, the method comprising the steps of:

sending the request to the operating system, wherein the request causes the operating system to perform a file look-up operation;

receiving a notification from the operating system that the file operation cannot be performed ~~atomically~~ without suspending task execution if the file look-up operation cannot be performed without suspending task execution; and

redirecting the request if the notification is received from the operating system that the file operation was not performed ~~atomically~~ without suspending task execution because the file look-up operation could not be performed without suspending task execution.

15 (currently amended). An operating system comprising:

a file system including a file system namespace; and

an operating system kernel operatively connected to the file system, the operating system kernel operative to enable the task execution of ~~for~~ at least one application, the operating system kernel further comprising:

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a file system namespace cache for caching file paths from the file system namespace; and

~~an atomic~~ file look-up operation operable to determine if a specific file path corresponding to a specific file is stored in the file system namespace cache and to notify the at least one application ~~when whether~~ a file operation relative to the specific file is not being performed ~~atomically~~ without suspending task execution based on ~~whether the file look-up operation not being performed without~~ suspending task execution because the specific file path is not stored in the file system namespace cache.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 2 March 04

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